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July 12, 1963

Professor George B. Kistiakowsky
Committee on Science and Public Policy
National Academy of Sciences
2101 Constitution Avenue
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Professor Kistiakowsky:

In the last issue of SCIENCE I read that your committee is now concerned with a study of Federal grant policies and that you would be interested in receiving comments from various scientists.

I have been quite concerned about the patent clause in N.I.H. research grants which I believe is totally unrealistic and unenforceable, and I prepared a memorandum on this subject, dated June 19, which was sent to a committee at Stanford University which is currently collecting such data on N.I.H. grants. I am enclosing a copy of this memorandum for your information.

You will note from the bottom half of the second page and the top of the third page that I have performed a simple experiment to show the unfeasibility of this patent policy and I would urge that your committee look into this matter. I believe that it is important not only to change this procedure within the N.I.H. but also to prevent the N.S.F. from adopting it.

Yours sincerely,

Carl Djerassi
Professor of Chemistry

CD:lcb

Enc.

✓ bcc: Dr. J. Lederberg